GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:287
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015
NUCLEAR ENERGY
Ahmed Shri Sultan

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether nuclear energy is cheaper as compared to fossil fuel based power in the country, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether production of nuclear power is safe and clean and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is encouraging industrialists by giving subsidies for investment in nuclear power generation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response received in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a) The tariffs of electricity generated through nuclear energy are comparable to those of the contemporary conventional base load power generating units (such as coal-based thermal power stations) located in the area/region. The tariffs of nuclear power generated by various projects presently in operation range from 97 Paise per unit for the first generation plants at Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units 1&2 (TAPS- 1&2) to 394 Paise per unit for the latest com- missioned plant at Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP). The average tariff of nuclear power was about 271 Paise per unit in 2013-14. The range of tariffs of fossil fuel based sources of electricity in the central sector are given below:

Technology	Tariff Range (Paise / kWh) as on 31.03.2014
Coal (Pithead Generating Stations)	147 – 385
Coal (Non Pithead Generating Stations)	375 – 529
Lignite	279 – 401
Natural Gas (APM)	336 – 399
Natural Gas (NAPM)	423 – 439
Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)	920 – 1288
Naphtha/ HSD	846 – 1367

Source: CERC Report on short term power market in India 2013-14
(b) Yes, Sir. The safety record of nuclear power in India has been impeccable. In over 45 years of operation, there has not been a single accident or incident of release of radioactivity beyond stipulated limits in the public domain. The radiation dose level at nuclear power plants has been a negligible fraction of the naturally prevalent background radiation, and has been within the range of its variations. Nuclear power is clean and environment friendly, because it does not emit any greenhouse gases (GHG) or other conventional pollutants.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.